# **BookletChart**<sup>TM</sup>



# Upper Galveston Bay – Houston Ship Channel

**NOAA Chart 11327** 

A reduced-scale NOAA nautical chart for small boaters When possible, use the full-size NOAA chart for navigation.



- Complete, reduced-scale nautical chart
- Print at home for free
- Convenient size
- Up-to-date with Notices to Mariners
- Compiled by NOAA's Office of Coast Survey, the nation's chartmaker

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# Published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Ocean Service Office of Coast Survey

<u>www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov</u> 888-990-NOAA

#### What are Nautical Charts?

Nautical charts are a fundamental tool of marine navigation. They show water depths, obstructions, buoys, other aids to navigation, and much more. The information is shown in a way that promotes safe and efficient navigation. Chart carriage is mandatory on the commercial ships that carry America's commerce. They are also used on every Navy and Coast Guard ship, fishing and passenger vessels, and are widely carried by recreational boaters.

### What is a BookletChart<sup>™</sup>?

This BookletChart is made to help recreational boaters locate themselves on the water. It has been reduced in scale for convenience, but otherwise contains all the information of the full-scale nautical chart. The bar scales have also been reduced, and are accurate when used to measure distances in this BookletChart. See the Note at the bottom of page 5 for the reduction in scale applied to this chart.

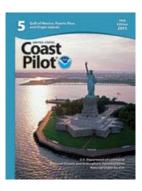
Whenever possible, use the official, full scale NOAA nautical chart for navigation. Nautical chart sales agents are listed on the Internet at <a href="http://www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov">http://www.NauticalCharts.NOAA.gov</a>.

This BookletChart does NOT fulfill chart carriage requirements for regulated commercial vessels under Titles 33 and 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

#### **Notice to Mariners Correction Status**

This BookletChart has been updated for chart corrections published in the U.S. Coast Guard Local Notice to Mariners, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency Weekly Notice to Mariners, and, where applicable, the Canadian Coast Guard Notice to Mariners. Additional chart corrections have been made by NOAA in advance of their publication in a Notice to Mariners. The last Notices to Mariners applied to this chart are listed in the Note at the bottom of page 7. Coast Pilot excerpts are not being corrected.

For latest Coast Pilot excerpt visit the Office of Coast Survey website at <a href="http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/searchbychart.php?chart=113">http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/searchbychart.php?chart=113</a>
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[Selected Excerpts from Coast Pilot]
Galveston Bay is a large, irregularly shaped shallow body of water on the coast of Texas, about 285 miles W from Southwest Pass and 690 miles NW from Dry Tortugas. The bay is about 30 miles long in a general NNE and SSW direction, about 17 miles wide at its widest part, and has general depths of 7 to 9 feet. About midway of its length it is nearly divided into parts by Red Fish Bar, a chain of small islets and shoals, through which the Houston Ship Channel

has been dredged. N of Red Fish Bar the bay is known as the Upper Bay and S as the Lower Bay. The NE end of the upper bay is Trinity Bay.

Galveston Entrance, the approach to Galveston Bay, lies between two converging stone-rubble jetties about 4 miles long and 1.3 miles apart at the outer ends. From deep water in the Gulf, the N jetty extends to Bolivar Peninsula and the S jetty extends to the N end of Galveston Island. Mariners should be alert to the possibility of strong crosscurrents in the Galveston Bay Entrance Channel; caution is advised. Vessel Traffic Service Houston–Galveston became mandatory 13 October 1994.

Detailed information on VTS Houston/ Galveston's operating requirements, designated frequencies, precautionary areas, and mandatory reporting points can be found in CFR Chapter 2 Part 161 Vessel Traffic Management, tables 161.12, 161.35(b), and 161.35(c). Mariners should obtain the latest edition of the U.S. Coast Guard's Houston/Galveston Vessel Traffic Service User's Manual, available from the Commanding Officer, U.S. Coast Guard Vessel Traffic Houston/ Galveston, 9640 Clinton Drive, Houston, TX 77029. Website: www.uscg.mil/VTSHouston

Anchorages.—Vessels may anchor off the bar in the Galveston Entrance Anchorages just inshore of the intersection of the Galveston Safety Fairway with the Coastwise Fairway. (See 166.100 through 166.200, chapter 2, for limits and regulations.)

Small craft anchoring in the designated areas should find the shoaler water so as to leave the deeper areas clear for larger vessels.

**Dangers.**—A considerable number of unmarked dangerous wrecks exist in the approaches to Galveston Bay Entrance. A spoil bank is S of the Outer Bar Channel, and an extensive shoal area is S of the channel between the jetties. Heald Bank and the offshore oil well structures are the principal hazards.

Vessels navigating in the Houston Ship Channel from Bolivar Roads to Morgans Point are cautioned about the heavy breakers which result from the bow wakes of tankers and other large merchant vessels in the channel.

**Dangers.**—Texas City Channel—A sunken wreck covered 10 feet is off the entrance to North Slip.

The channel from Galveston Bay to Clear Lake is reported to be highly congested with light commercial and pleasure-craft traffic, especially on weekends; a **speed limit** of 5 miles per hour is posted.

The Coast Guard advises vessels exercise particular caution where the channel intersects the Intracoastal Waterway, about 6.6 miles above the entrance jetties and just below Lighted Buoys 25 and 26. Situations resulting in collisions, groundings, and close quarters passing have been reported by both shallow and deep-draft vessels. The Coast Guard has requested vessels make a **SECURITE** call on VHF-FM channel 13 prior to crossing the Intracoastal Waterway, particularly during periods of restricted visibility.

**Moses Lake,** a shallow lagoon S of Dickinson Bay, is used as a harbor of refuge by many small craft during hurricane warnings. There are several marinas, small-craft launching ramps, and fish camps on a slip on the S side of the entrance to **Dollar Bay.** Gasoline, diesel fuel, ice, and provisions are available.

N of Bolivar Peninsula, spoil banks on both sides of the channel extend N to **Red Fish Bar**. About 1.5 miles below Red Fish Bar, a narrow channel marked at the entrance by Daybeacon 1, exits Houston Ship Channel to the W, leading to Dickinson Bayou. Along the NE side of Houston Ship Channel N of Red Fish Bar, several openings through the spoil bank permit passage into the NE portions of Galveston Bay.

# U.S. Coast Guard Rescue Coordination Center 24 hour Regional Contact for Emergencies

RCC New Orleans

Commander 8<sup>th</sup> CG District

(504) 589-6225

New Orleans, LA

### **Table of Selected Chart Notes**

Corrected through NM Nov. 17/12 Corrected through LNM Nov. 06/12

#### HEIGHTS

Heights in feet above Mean High Water.

Mercator Projection Scale 1:25,000 at Lat. 29°28'

North American Datum of 1983 (World Geodetic System of 1984)

#### SOUNDINGS IN FEET AT MEAN LOWER LOW WATER

#### CAUTION

Temporary changes or defects in aids to navigation are not indicated on this chart. See Local Notice to Mariners.

#### AIDS TO NAVIGATION

Consult U.S. Coast Guard Light List for supplemental information concerning aids to avigation.

#### CAUTION

Improved channels shown by broken lines are subject to shoaling, particularly at the edges

#### CLEAR CREEK CHANNEL

The controlling depths were 7 feet for a width of 75 feet in the entrance channel, then 3½ feet for a width of 60 feet to the western end of Clear Lake.

#### HORIZONTAL DATUM

The horizontal reference datum of this chart is North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83), which for charting purposes is considered equivalent to the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS 84). Geographic positions referred to the North American Datum of 1927 must be corrected an average of 0.833" northward and 0.724" westward to agree with this chart.

Survey platforms, signs, pipes, piles, and stakes, some submerged, may exist along the maintained channels. Piles and platforms are not charted where they interfere with a light symbol.

#### WARNING

The prudent mariner will not rely solely on any single aid to navigation, particularly on floating aids. See U.S. Coast Guard Light List and U.S. Coast Pilot for details.

#### CAUTION

SUBMARINE PIPELINES AND CABLES

Charted submarine pipelines and submarine cables and submarine pipeline and cable areas are shown as:

Pipeline Area

Cable Area

Additional uncharted submarine pipelines and omarine cables may exist within the area of s chart. Not all submarine pipelines and subnarine cables are required to be buried, and water comparable to their draft in areas where pipelines and cables may exist, and when anchoring, dragging, or trawling. Covered wells may be marked by lighted or

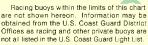
#### CAUTION

Limitations on the use of radio signals as aids to marine navigation can be found in the U.S. Coast Guard Light Lists and National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Publication 117

Radio direction-finder bearings to commercial broadcasting stations are subject to error and should be used with caution. Station positions are shown thus:

⊙(Accurate location) o(Approximate location)

#### RACING BUOYS



#### CAUTION

Submerged stakes may exist about 700 feet west of and parallel to the centerline of the Houston Ship Channel between Light 53 and Light 59 and 400 feet east of and parallel to the Houston Ship Channel between Light 58 11

#### Gas and Oil Well Structures

Uncharted platforms, gas and oil well struc-ures, pipes, piles and stakes can exist within he limits of this chart.

#### CAUTION

Improved channels shown by broken lines are subject to shoaling, particularly at the edges.

#### **AUTHORITIES**

Hydrography and topography by the National Ocean Service, Coast Survey, with additional data from the Corps of Engineers, Geological Survey, and U.S. Coast Guard.

#### NOAA WEATHER RADIO BROADCASTS

The NOAA Weather Radio stations listed elow provide continuous weather broadcasts. The reception range is typically 20 to 40 nautical miles from the antenna site, but can be as much as 100 nautical miles for stations at high elevations.

Galveston, TX

KHB-40 KGG-68 162.55 MHz 162.40 MHz

#### RADAR REFLECTORS

Radar reflectors have been placed on many floating aids to navigation. Individual radar reflector identification on these aids has been omitted from this chart.

The U.S. Coast Guard operates a mandatory Vessel Traffic Manual. Mariners should consult these sources for applicable rules and reporting requirements. "Houston Traffic" is a full service VTS, providing a continuous information Service; Traffic Organization Services as requisite; and Navigation

#### HURRICANES AND TROPICAL STORMS

Hurricanes, tropical storms and other major storms may cause considerable damage to marine structures, aids to navigation and moored vessels, resulting in submerged debris in unknown locations. Charted soundings, channel depths and shoreline may not reflect actual conditions following these storms. Fixed aids to navigation may have been damaged or destroyed. Buoys may have been moved from their charted positions, damaged, sunk, extinguished or otherwise made inoperative. Mariners should not rely upon the position or operation of an aid to available. Weeks and a hyperged chetterdines may have been displaced. navigation. Wrecks and submerged obstructions may have been displaced from charted locations. Pipelines may have become uncovered or moved. Mariners are urged to exercise extreme caution and are requested to

report aids to navigation discrepancies and hazards to navigation to the nearest United States Coast Guard unit.

#### SOURCE DIAGRAM

The outlined areas represent the limits of the most recent hydrographic survey information that has been evaluated for charting. Surveys have been banded in this diagram by date and type of survey. Channels maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are periodically resurveyed and are not shown on this diagram. Refer to Chapter 1, <u>United States Coast Pilot.</u>

TIDAL INFORMATION								
PLACE	Height referred to datum of soundings (MLLW)							
NAME	(LAT/LONG)	Mean Higher High Water	Mean High Water	Mean Low Water				
Eagle Point	(29°29'N/94°55'W)	feet 1.1	feet 1.1	feet 0.1				

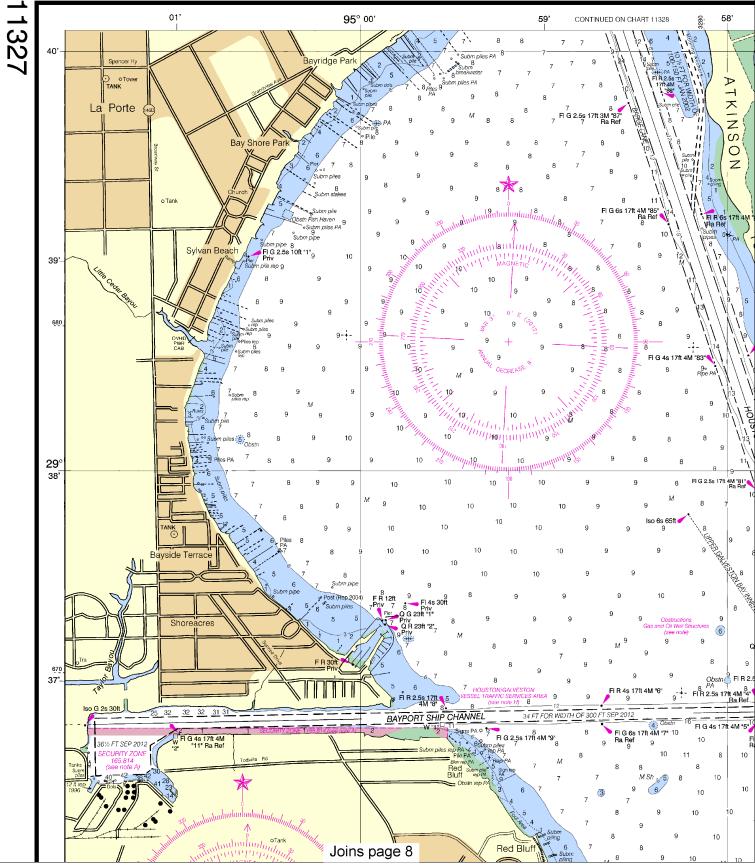
bashes (---) located in datum columns indicate unavailable on the internet from http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov.

HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL DEPTHS TABULATED FROM SURVEYS BY THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS - REPORT OF SEP 2012									
CONTROLLING DEPTHS FROM SEAWARD IN FEET AT MEAN LOW TIDE (MLT)  PROJECT DIMENSIONS									
NAME OF CHANNEL	LEFT OUTSIDE QUARTER	LEFT INSIDE QUARTER	RIGHT INSIDE QUARTER	RIGHT OUTSIDE QUARTER	DATE OF SURVEY	WIDTH (FEET)	LENGTH (MILES)	DEPTH MLLW (FEET)	
BOLIVAR ROADS TO RED FISH LIGHT 1 RED FISH LIGHT 1 TO BEACON 76 (TURN)	44.1 38.1	44.5 46.8	44.6 45.3	41.0 40.4	9-12 9-12	530 400	12.38 8.33	45 45	
BCN 76 TO LWR END MORGANS PT CUT	39.3	48.1	44.0	38.7	9-12	530	5.49	45	

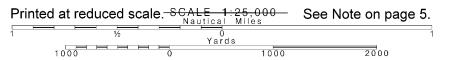
INFORMATION IN THIS TABULATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO NOAS BY THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENCINEERS DEPTHS ARE FERFENCED TO A LOCAL DEFENGING BEFERIENCE CALLED MEET BAIL LOW TIDE. FOR AN APPROXIMATE CONVERSION TO MEAN LOWER LOW WATER, ADD 1 FOOT TO EACH DEPTH IN THE TABULATION. NOTE - CONSULT THE CORPS OF ENMINEERS FOR CHANGES SUBSECUENT TO THE ADDVE INFORMATION

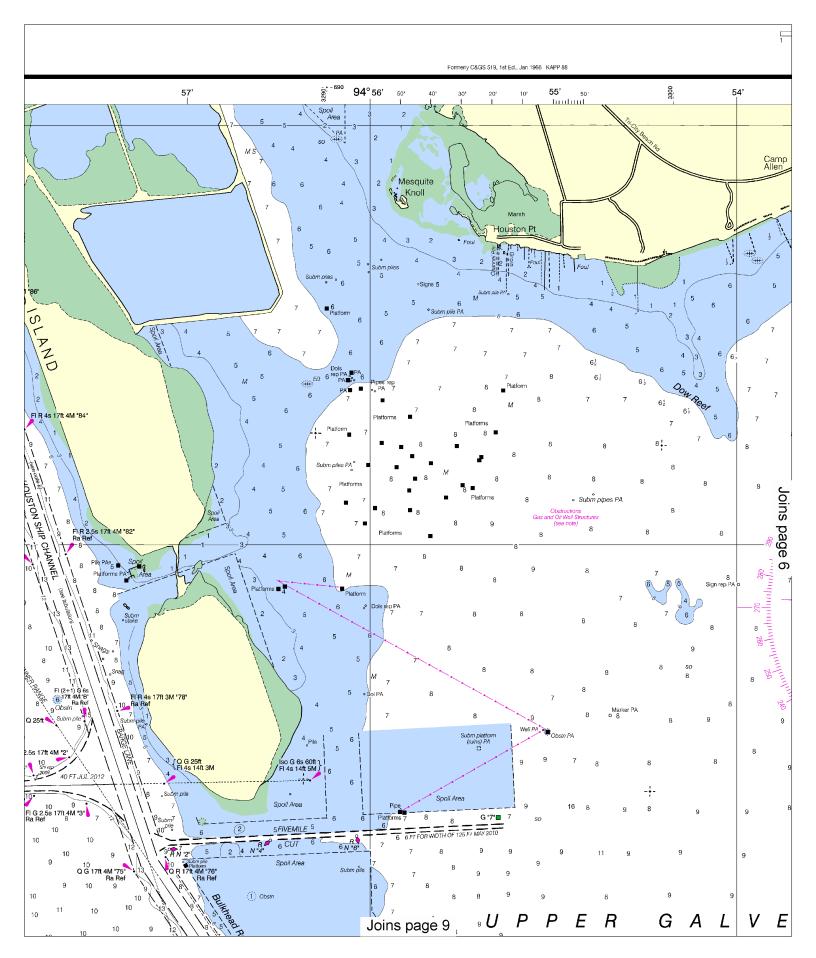
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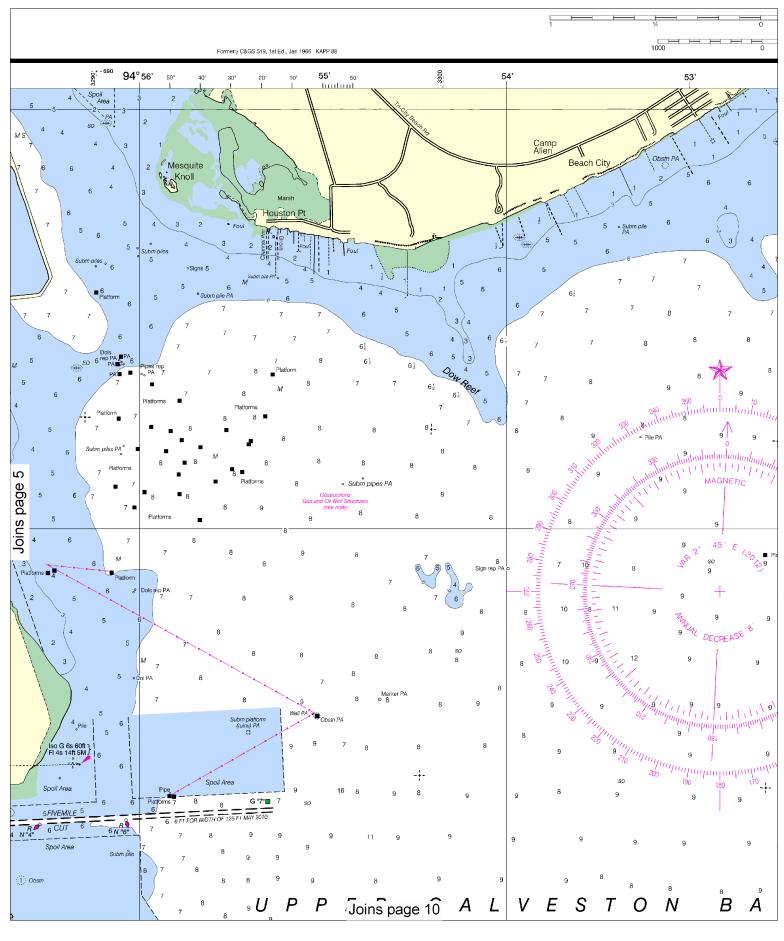
This nautical chart has been designed to promote safe navigation. The National Ocean Service encourages users to submit corrections, additions, or comments for improving this chart to the Chief, Marine Chart Division (N/CS2), National Ocean Service, NOAA, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3282.



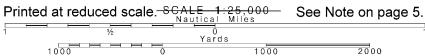
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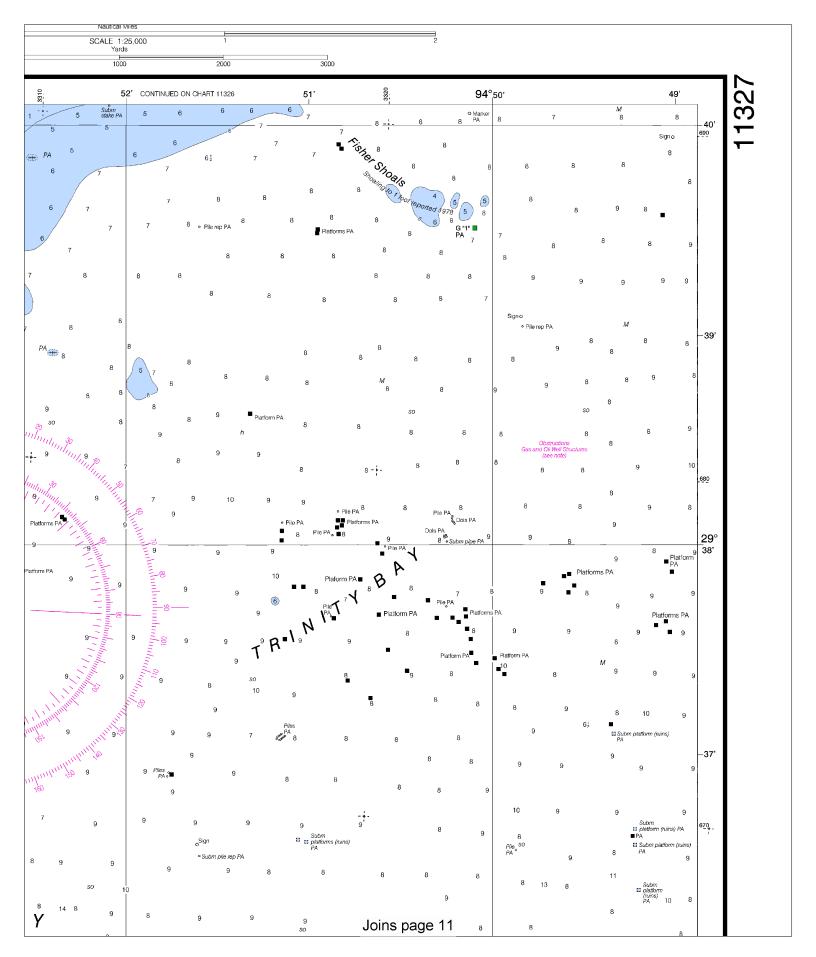


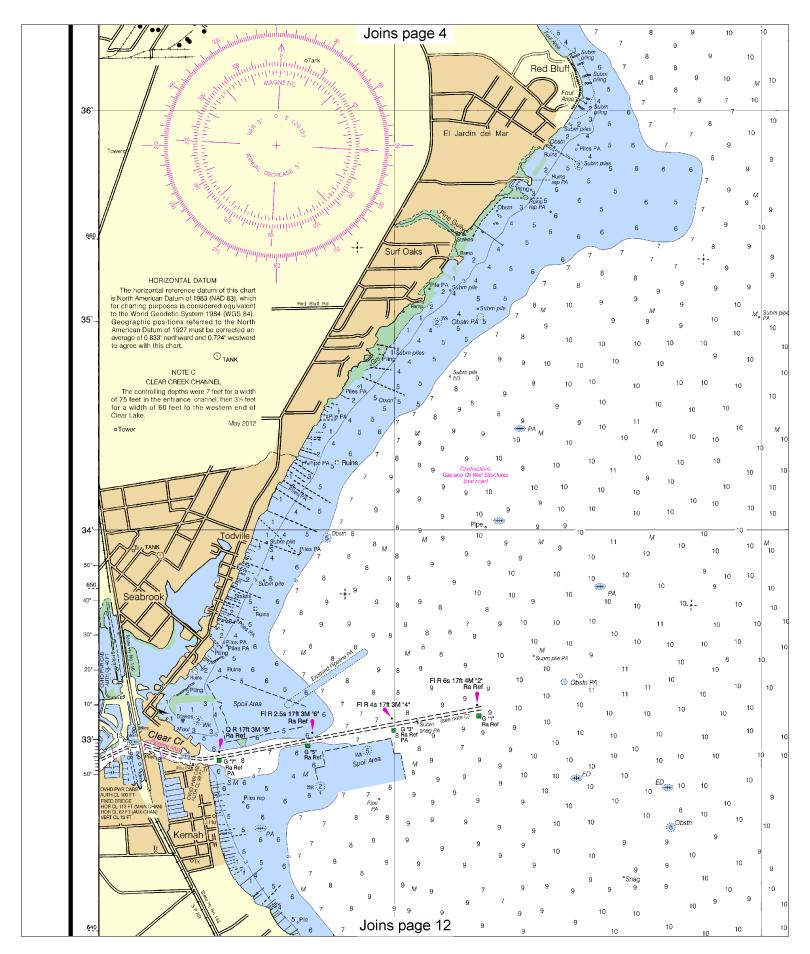




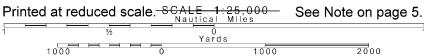


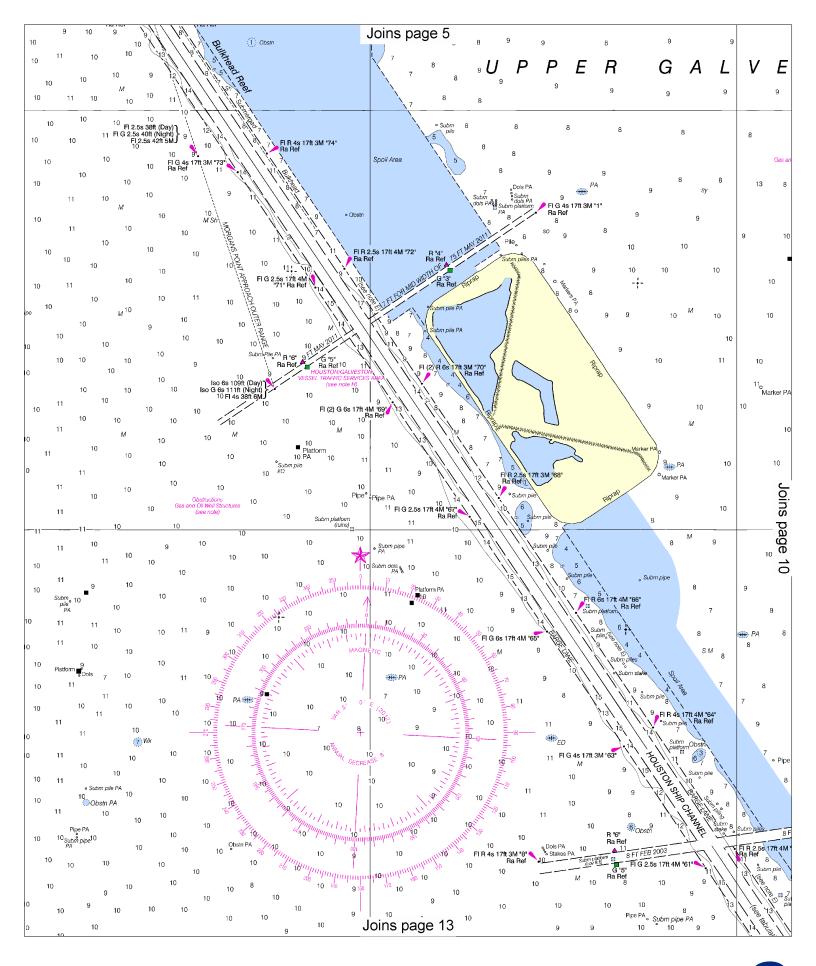




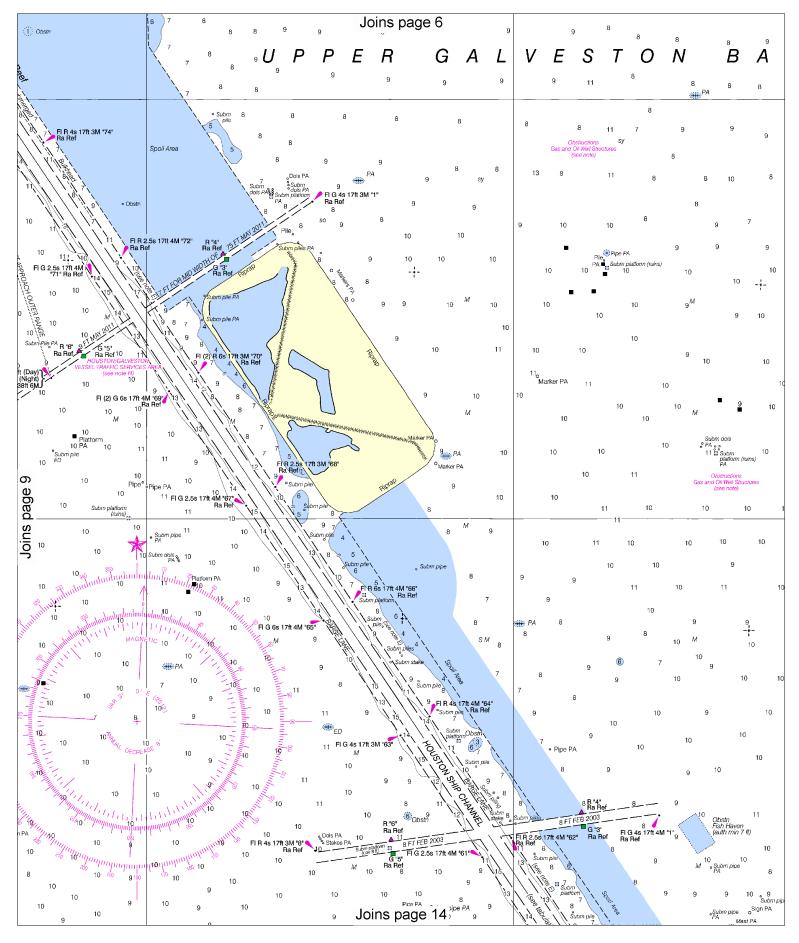


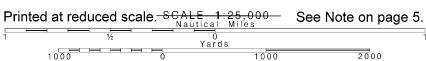


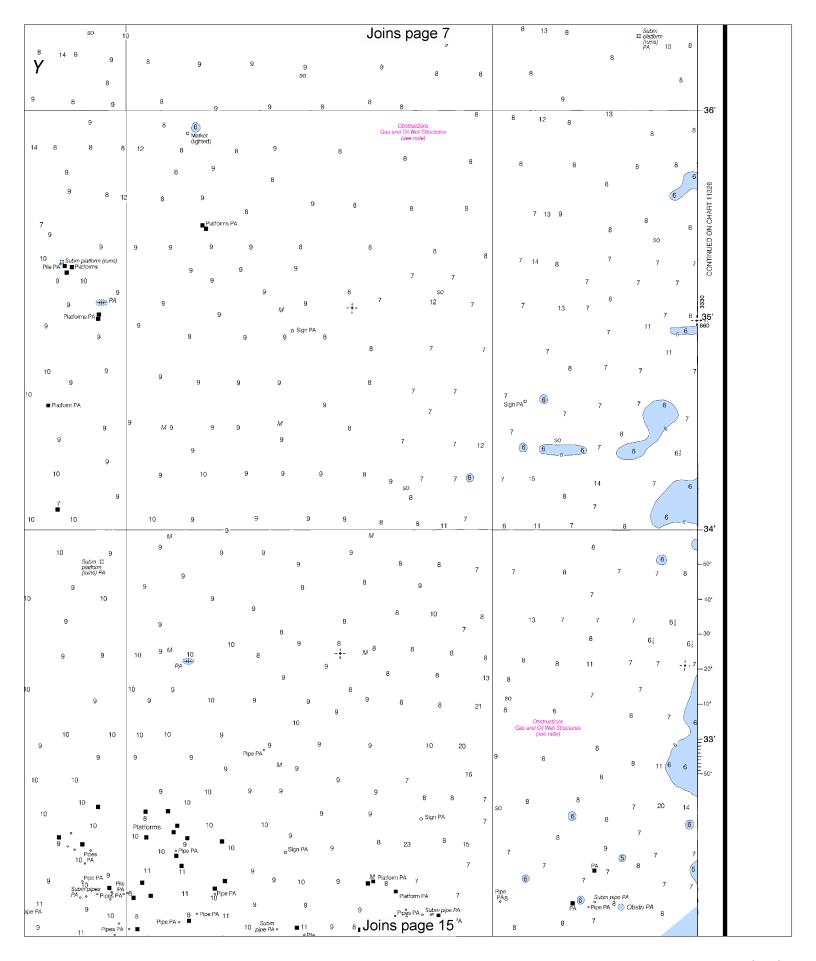


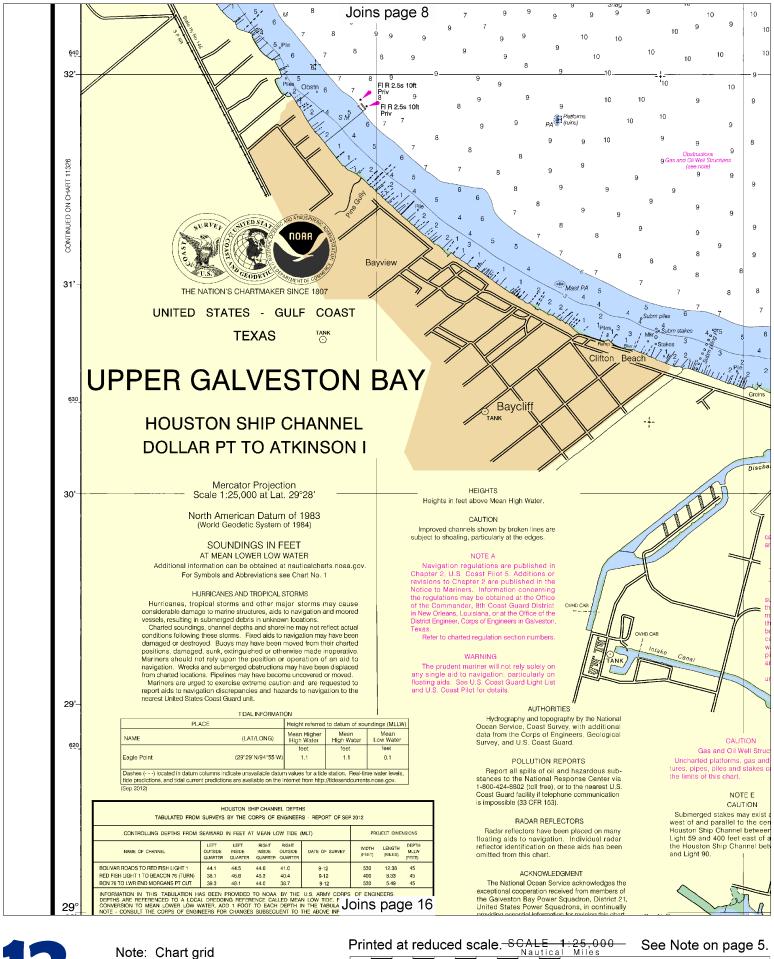






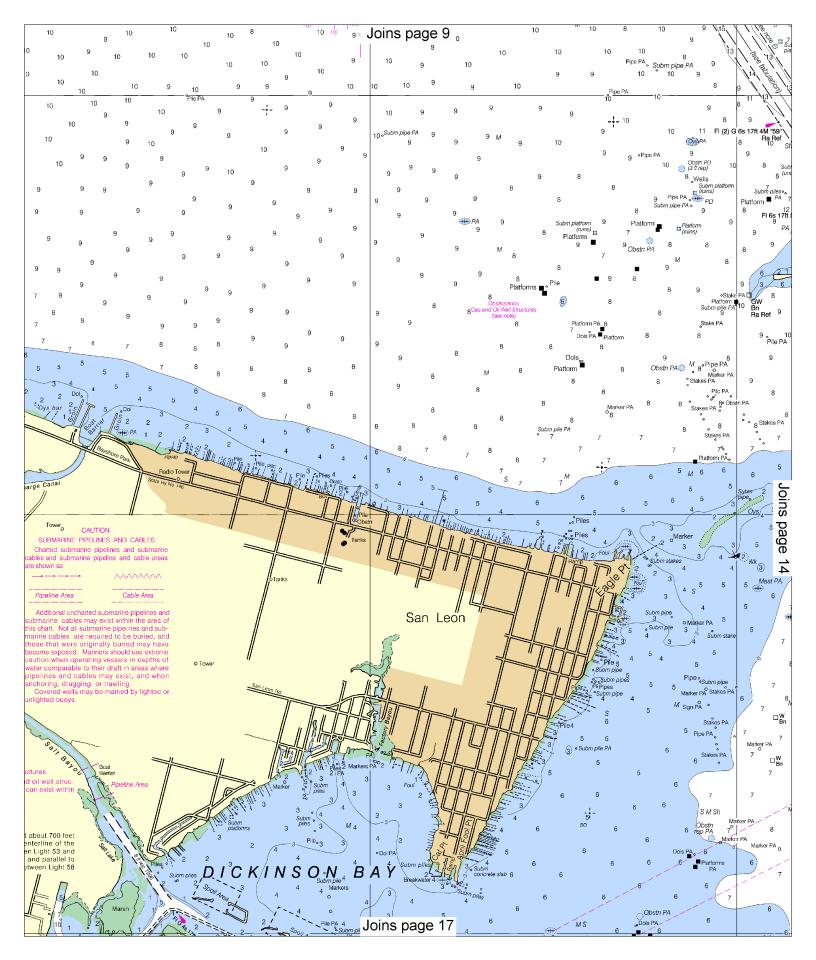


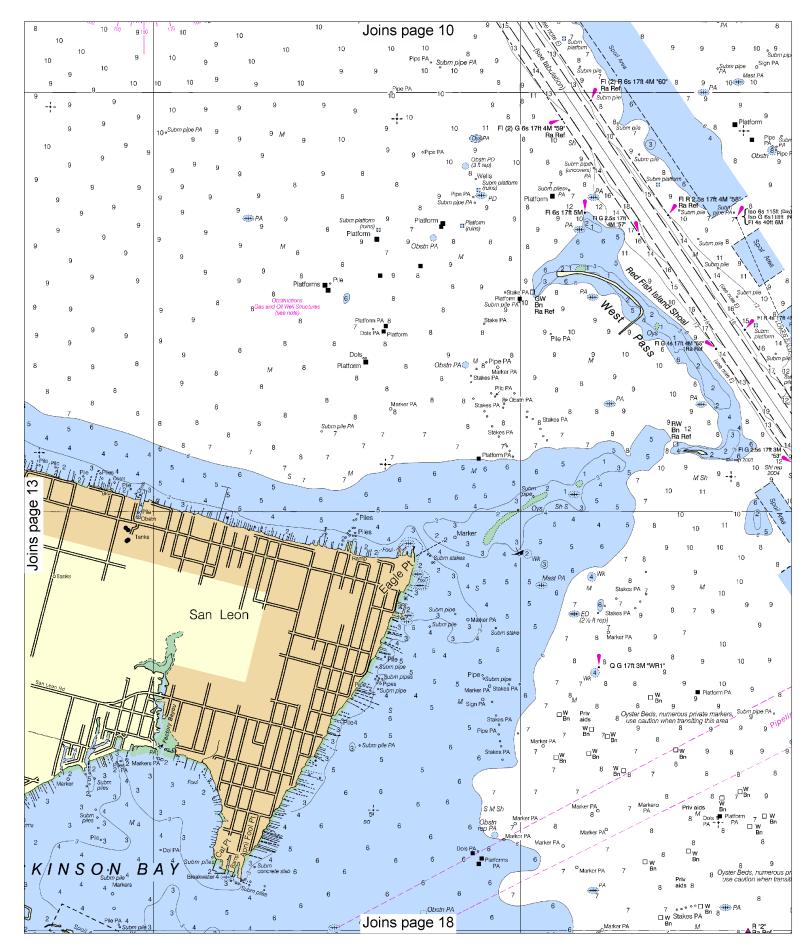




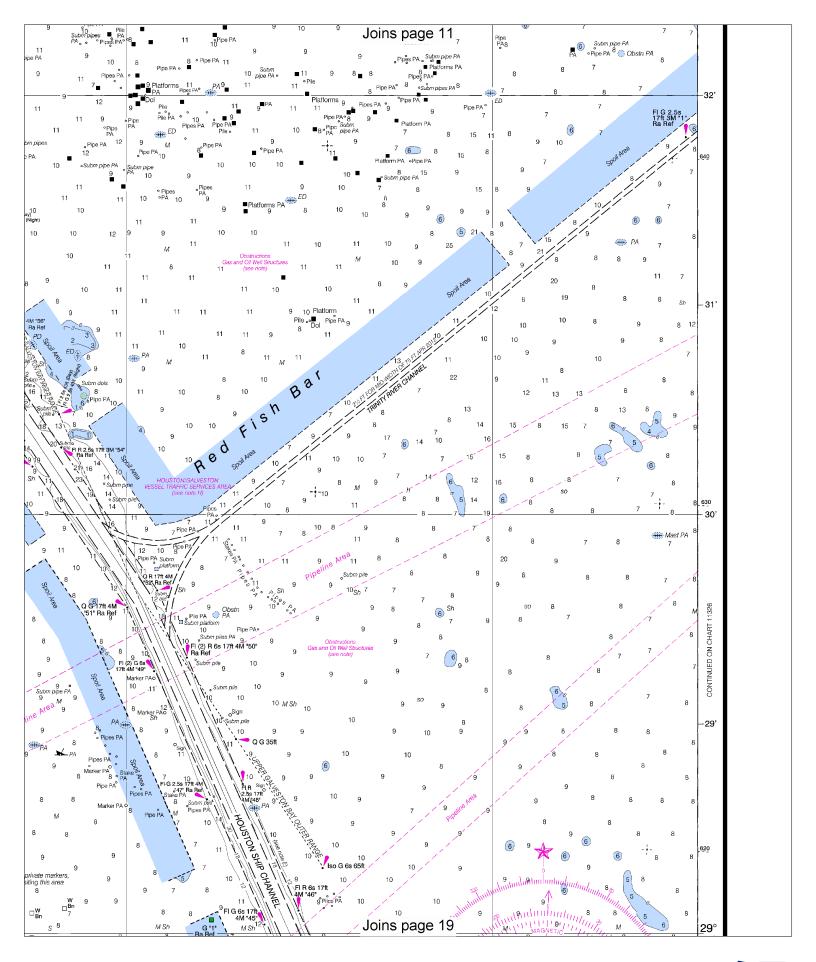
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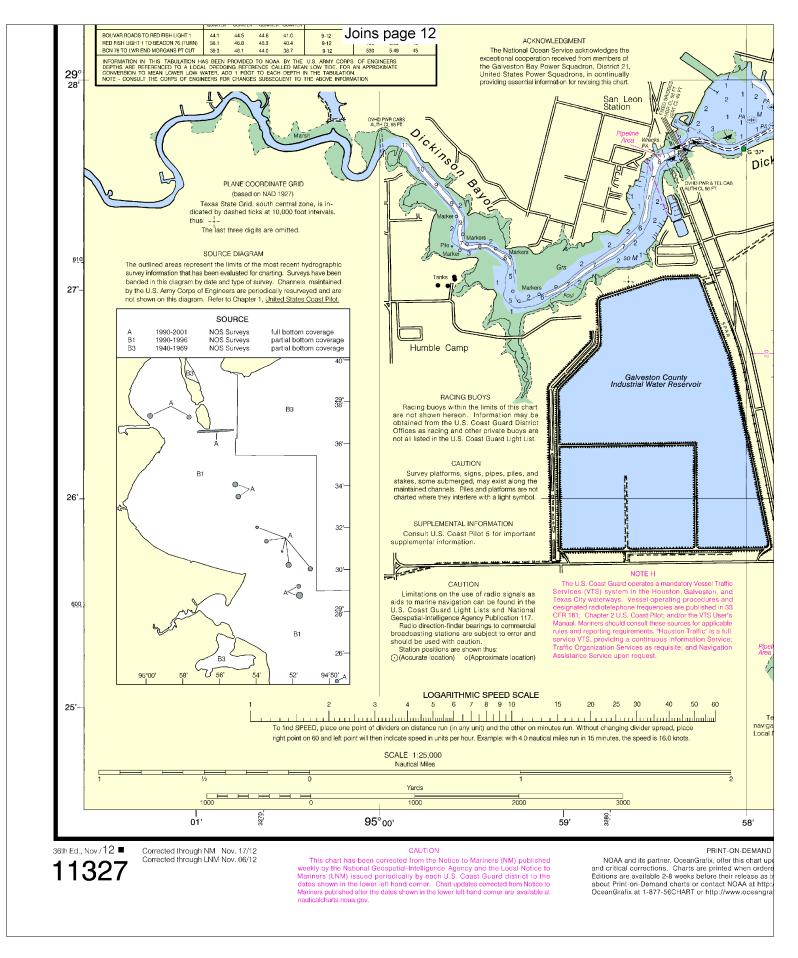




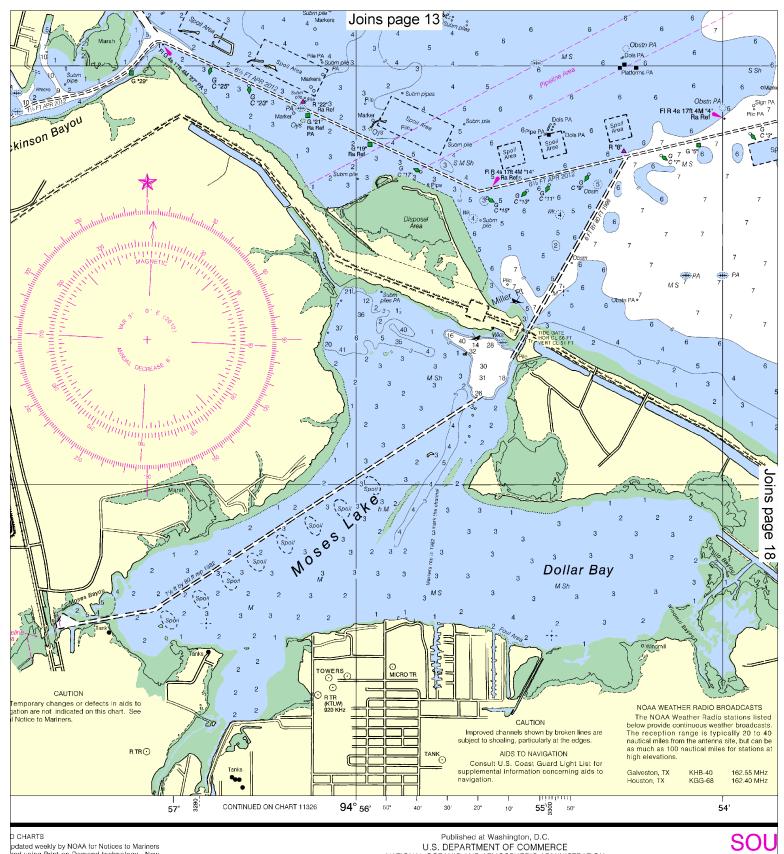




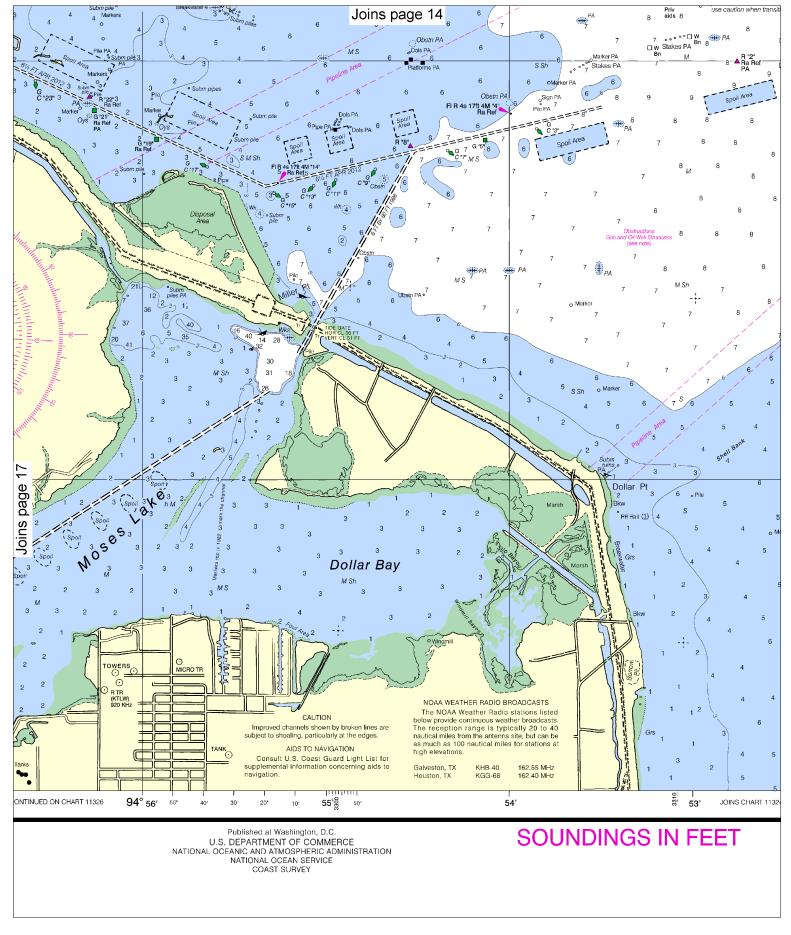


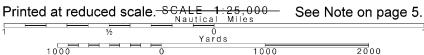


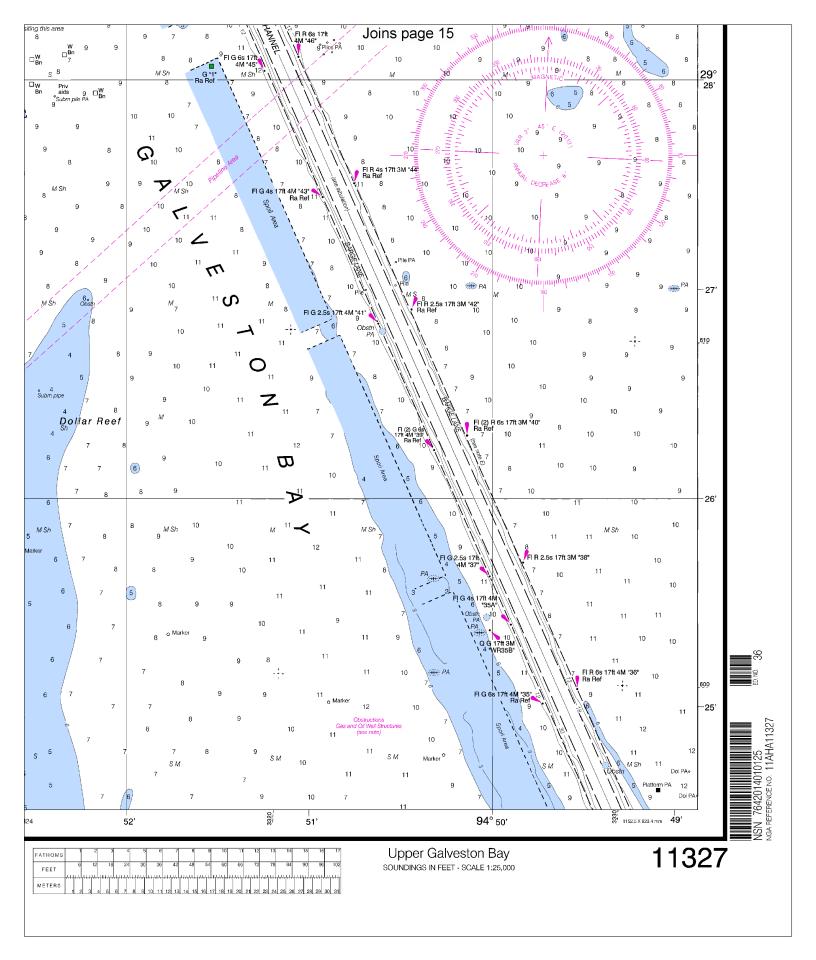




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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
COAST SURVEY









### VHF Marine Radio channels for use on the waterways:

**Channel 6** – Inter-ship safety communications.

Channel 9 – Communications between boats and ship-to-coast.

Channel 13 – Navigation purposes at bridges, locks, and harbors.

Channel 16 – Emergency, distress and safety calls to Coast Guard and others, and to initiate calls to other

vessels. Contact the other vessel, agree to another channel, and then switch.

Channel 22A – Calls between the Coast Guard and the public. Severe weather warnings, hazards to navigation and safety warnings are broadcast here. Channels 68, 69, 71, 72 and 78A – Recreational boat channels.

**Getting and Giving Help** — Signal other boaters using visual distress signals (flares, orange flag, lights, arm signals); whistles; horns; and on your VHF radio. You are required by law to help boaters in trouble. Respond to distress signals, but do not endanger yourself.

#### **Distress Call Procedures**

- Make sure radio is on.
- Select Channel 16.
- Press/Hold the transmit button.
- Clearly say: "MAYDAY, MAYDAY, MAYDAY."
- Also give: Vessel Name and/or Description; Position and/or Location; Nature of

Emergency; Number of People on Board.

- · Release transmit button.
- Wait for 10 seconds If no response Repeat MAYDAY call.

HAVE ALL PERSONS PUT ON LIFE JACKETS!



NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/

## **Quick References**

Nautical chart related products and information — http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov

Online chart viewer — <a href="http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/NOAAChartViewer.html">http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/NOAAChartViewer.html</a>

Report a chart discrepancy — http://ocsdata.ncd.noaa.gov/idrs/discrepancy.aspx

Chart and chart related inquiries and comments — http://ocsdata.ncd.noaa.gov/idrs/inquiry.aspx?frompage=ContactUs

Chart updates (LNM and NM corrections) — http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/updates/LNM\_NM.html

Coast Pilot online — http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/cpdownload.htm

Tides and Currents — http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov

Marine Forecasts — http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/marine/home.htm

National Data Buoy Center — http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/

NowCoast web portal for coastal conditions — http://www.nowcoast.noaa.gov/

National Weather Service — http://www.weather.gov/

National Hurrican Center — http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/

Pacific Tsunami Warning Center — http://ptwc.weather.gov/

Contact Us — http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/contact.htm



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